

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 5509

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, RP
SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS: EARLY ELECTION RESULTS

REF: MANILA 5504

1. SUMMARY. EARLY UNOFFICIAL AND PARTIAL ELECTION RESULTS
PROJECT THE GOVERNMENT'S KBL PARTY WINNING ALL 21 LEGISLA-
TIVE SEATS IN METRO MANILA; THE OPPOSITION LABAN PARTY AP-
PEARS TO BE GETTING ABOUT 40 PERCENT OF THE VOT. COMELEC
REPORTS A 90 PERCENT VOTER TURNOUT AND CALLS THE ELECTION
THE MOST PEACEFUL IN HISTROY. OFFICIAL RESULTS WILL START
APPEARING LATER TODAY. PRESIDENT MARCOS SAID THURSDAY'S
"NOISE BARRAGE" INIDCATED THAT "SUBVERSIVES" HAD TAKEN OVER
LABAN. SEVERAL LABAN CAMPAIGN WORKERS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED
AND A LABAN CANDIDATE'S HOUSE HAS BEEN RANSACKED BY POLICE.
SOME LABAN CANDIDATES ARE NERVOUS ABOUT POSSIBLE ARREST, BUT
THERE IS NO CLEAR INDICATION GOP WILL TAKE THIS STEP. LABAN
PROTESTS OF ELECTION FRAUD IN TWO METRO MANILA AREAS HAVE BEEN
TURNED DOWN BY COMELEC. SCATTERED PROVINCIAL REPORTS
INDICATE A GOOD EARLY SHOWING BY SOME NON-KBL CANDI-
DATES IN THE SOUTH. END SUMMARY.

2. INITIAL UNOFFICIAL ELECTION RETURNS IN METRO MANILA
PROJECT GOVERNMENT'S KBL PARTY WINNING ALL 21 LOCAL SEATS
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IN INTERIM LEGISLATURE. PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY AS OF 0800
APRIL 8 REPORTS EX-SENATOR TOLENTINO LEADING WITH 15,961
VOTES, FOLLOWED BY MRS. MARCOS WITH 15,547 AND EX-LIBERAL
PARTY SENATOR (AND TV PERSONALITY) ILARDE WITH 15,546. TIMES
JOURNAL REPORTS THAT AS OF MIDNIGHT ITS UNOFFICIAL TALLY
SHOWED KBL LEADING HANDILY. BLOC VOTING WAS 20,612 FOR
KBL AND 12,206 FOR LABAN. INDIVIDUAL VOTING GAVE THE TOP

KBL CANDIDATE (MRS. MARCOS) AN ADDITIONAL 3,483 VOTES AND THE TOP LABAN CANDIDATE (FORMER COMELECT CHAIRMAN FERRER) AN ADDITIONAL 2,715 VOTES. THE LOWEST KBL CANDIDATE RECEIVED 8,559 MORE VOTES THAN THE TOP LABAN CANDIDATE. KBL LEADERS, ACCORDING TO TIMES JOURNAL, WERE MR. MARCOS, ROMULO, LLARDE AND TOLENTINO. LABAN LEADERS WERE FERRER, AQUINO (100 VOTES LESS THAN FERRER), AND EX-SENATORS MITRA AND RODRIGO. COMPARING THE LEADING KBL AND LABAN CANDIDATES, MRS. MARCOS RECEIVED 62 PERCENT TO FERRER'S 28 PERCENT.

3. SHORTLY AFTER THE POLLS CLOSED, COMELEC CHAIRMAN PEREZ ANNOUNCED A 90 PERCENT VOTER TURNOUT IN MANILA AND COUNTRY-WIDE. HE SAID THIS HAD BEEN THE MOST PEACEFUL ELECTION IN PHILIPPINE HISTORY.

4. AS OF 1100 APRIL 8, COMELEC HAS POSTED NO OFFICIAL RETURNS. UNDER COMELEC RULES, THE 12,000 INDIVIDUAL PRECINCTS IN METRO MANILA WERE GIVEN UNTIL 0700 TO CONVEY THEIR RESULTS TO LOCAL CANVASSING CENTERS. THE LATTER HAVE UNTIL NOON TO BRING THEM TO COMELEC HEADQUARTERS, WHERE THE OFFICIAL TALLY WILL BE KEPT. COMELEC SPOKESMEN SAY THEY EXPECT INITIAL TRENDS TO BE APPARENT EARLY AFTER-NOON APRIL 8.

5. LOOKING TENSE, PRESIDENT MARCOS WHILE VOTING IN ILOCOS, TOLD NEWSMEN THAT THURSDAY NIGHT'S "NOISE BARRAGE" IN MANILA
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WAS EVIDENCE THAT "SUBVERSIVES" HAD GAINED CONTROL OF LABAN. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN ADVISED TO ARREST LABAN LEADERS, BUT HAD INSTEAD ORDERED RESTRAINT EXCEPT "WHEN THERE IS A THREAT TO LIFE OR MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY." PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT "AT LEAST" 33 PERSONS WERE ARRESTED DURING THE "BARRAGE". ACCORDING TO LABAN SOURCE, 12 LABAN CAMPAIGN WORKERS WERE ARRESTED. LABAN SUPPORTERS HAVE ALSO TOLD US THAT HOME OF LABAN CANDIDATE, CHARITO PLANTAS, WAS RENSACKED BY METROCOM LATE FRIDAY; SHE WAS NOT AT HOME. WE HEAR THERE IS CONSIDERABLE NERVOUSNESS ON THE PART OF SOME LABAN CANDIDATES THAT THEY MIGHT BE ARRESTED. BUT THERE IS NO CLEAR INDICATION GOP WILL DO SO.

6. LABAN LEADERS HAVE ALLEGED FRAUD IN TWO METRO MANILA SUBURBS, INCLUDING MAKATI, WHERE THE MAYOR REPORTEDLY ARRESTED LABAN'S LOCAL MANAGER. COMELEC MET FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND REJECTED THE COMPLAINT.

7. SCATTERED EARLY REPORTS FROM OTHER REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY HAVE SOME NON-KBL CANDIDATES DOING QUITE WELL, AT LEAST IN THE LARGER CITIES. IN MOST LUZON AND VISAYAS REGIONS, THE ONLY CONTEST IS AMONG KBL CANDIDATES. IN

THE BICOL (REGION 5), A YOUNG DEMOCRAT PARTY CANDIDATE IS RUNNING SECOND TO INFORMATION SECRETARY TATAD. IN CEBU (REGION 7), THE NEO-OPPOSITIONIST PUSYON BISAYA PARTY IS LEADING THE KBL; WITHIN THE KBL CEBU GOVERNOR GULLAS IS SLIGHTLY AHEAD OF LITO OSMENA (NEPHEW OF MARCOS' LAST PRESIDENTIAL OPPONENT). IN ZAMBOANGA (REGION 9), TWO "OPPOSITIONISTS" ARE AMONG THE EIGHT EARLY LEADERS. IN CAGAYAN DE ORO (REGION 1), THE MINDANAO ALLIANCE'S CANOY AND ADAZA ARE AHEDAD OF EX-VICE PRESIDENT PELAEZ' KBL SLATE. IN DAVAO (REGION 11), TWO MINDANAO ALLIANCE CANDIDATES ARE AMONG THE CURRENT TEN LEADERS. AND IN COTABATO (REGION 12), FOUR KBL AND FOUR "OPPOSITION" CANDIDATES ARE LEADING.

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